SUBJECT No. 96.

Appointments of *totis* and *talaris* in villages where they do not exist.

Mr. S. Sitaramiah, Shimoga taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The want of *totis* and *talaris* in several villages has been a source of much inconvenience for the proper discharge of the duties of village officials. As these servants are very useful not only for the discharge of Government work but also to the village community, steps may be taken to appoint them in villages for which *totis* and *talaris* have not yet been appointed.

Mr. C. Sreenivasa Rao.—In the malnad, the *toti* is given one bundle of grass and some paddy. He is allowed to take the carcasses of animals, the skins of which yield him a good profit. A similar practice may be introduced in other places. If they are allowed to take the carcasses of all animals, they will be satisfied with a small amount of grain. No uniform system should be introduced but local usages must be followed.

Mr. V. Raghavachar.—In the Ananthapur District, a cess is levied for payment of *totis* and *talaris*. A similar cess may be introduced here.

Mr. M. K. Krishnamurthi.—Formerly patels and shanbhogs also received *aya* and when that was abolished no cess was imposed. Government pays the entire potgi. The raiyats do not derive any benefit from the services of these village servants. They are doing entirely Government work and should be paid by Government.

Mr. Hema Hanumanthaiya.—I have much experience both as a revenue officer and landlord. The services of these *totis* and *talaris* are absolutely necessary. It is they who have to carry unclaimed corpses. They have to assemble villagers to meet any common danger. No *toti* is able to get his *miras* properly. He is afraid to claim it from any of the influential raiyats. No suits are filed for the recovery of *miras*. The best policy seems to be for Government to pay them, levying a cess for the purpose. This cess may be fixed at one anna per each rupee of assessment on dry land, six pies per each rupee of wet assessment and three pies per each rupee of garden assessment.

Reply of Government.—The subject is under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 97.

Reduction of assessment in malnad.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur taluk

Summary of discussion.—In the malnad and semi-malnad parts, the assessment is very high. The raiyats in these parts pray that this point may be considered in the ensuing re-survey. Through a mistake, the Survey Department without making sufficient allowances for difficulties of labour and cultivation has put the soils in the malnad into a very high class during original Settlement and raised the assessment. The assessment is too